



February 21, 2008

NEW ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER (ELL) SITES ADDED

Beginning next school year, the district will add two new sites for English Language Learner students – Ellis Middle School for incoming seventh graders and Elgin High School for incoming freshmen. The district's goal in providing additional locations is to better serve our ELL students where they live.

THANK YOU FROM NEWCOMERS PROGRAM

The U-46 Newcomers Program would like to recognize and thank the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Elgin for their grant of \$3,250 to help support the program's Field Approach to Cultural Integration and Language Learning (FACIL). The money will be used to fund field trips and related cultural and language curriculum for visits to many local and regional venues such as the Brookfield Zoo, Field Museum of Chicago, Pumpkin Patch, Elgin Historical Museum, Meijer, Max McGraw Nature Preserve, and others.

The program would also like to thank AMCORE Bank for hosting two field trips to its Big Timber branch office and for their donation of \$250.

The effectiveness of the Newcomers Program's approach to the cultural integration of our new arrivals depends on the good will and generosity of community and corporate partners.

WEAPONS PREVENTION PROGRAM EXPANDED

Administrators at all U-46 high schools, including Bartlett, Larkin, South Elgin, Elgin, Streamwood, and Gifford Street Alternative, will conduct random searches for illegal materials and contraband, including weapons, in an expanded weapons prevention program.

Classrooms will be selected randomly and all students in that room will be checked. The search will be limited to a scan, using a hand-held metal detector, and an inspection of the student's book bag. All searches will be conducted by school principals, assistant principals, or deans. Elgin High School started this program in 1992, and it is now being expanded to all district high schools.

"Providing our students and staff a safe environment remains our top priority," said John Heiderscheidt, school safety coordinator. "We will not tolerate weapons, drugs, or any other prohibited items on any of our campuses."

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

The Elgin Area Chamber's Annual Hablamos Español Expo will take place on Saturday, March 1 at The Centre in Elgin. This expo is a unique opportunity for the many Spanish-speaking people in our area to learn about information and services available directly to them. The event would like to offer plenty of entertainment, especially from our students. Do you have a group of students – any age – willing to do a performance at this event? It can be a dance, musical, act, instrumental performance or any other kind of talent performance representing the Latino culture. Please contact Karla Guzmán at 847-888-5000, ext. 4211 or by e-mail karlaguzman@u-46.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS

[Elgin Hispanic Network](#) (EHN) and [Somos Colombia](#) are accepting applications for scholarship of up to \$1,000. Please review the attached guidelines carefully and encourage Hispanic students to apply.

EHN scholarship applicants should be graduating Elgin area High School* seniors of Hispanic descent who will be attending an accredited college or university in the fall of 2008. Award criteria include academic performance, community involvement and an essay completion. All application materials must be submitted no later than Friday, March 14, 2008. Finalist may be asked to participate in a brief interview. If you have any questions please contact Audrey Ramos Reed at 847-844-1100 ext. 13.

Somos Colombia scholarship applicants should be a junior or senior as of spring of current school year and graduating in May of the award year. Must Hispanic or from Hispanic background and have an overall GPA of at least 3.00. All application materials must be submitted no later than Friday, March 31, 2008.

YWCA IN NEED OF BILINGUAL VOLUNTEERS

YWCA in Elgin will have assistance for those needing to apply for an ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number) on April 5th. They are in need of community volunteers to help prepare the ITIN application. The IRS will provide training on how to fill out the form, just prior to the event. Training usually takes about an hour. If you, or someone you know, would be available to volunteer for this event, please contact Rebecca Walker at 847-742-7930 or by e-mail at rwalker@ywcaelgin.org.

U-46 BILINGUAL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (BPAC) CORNER

BPAC is asking for moral and monetary support for co-worker and friend Rebecca Santana. Her daughter María Ruiz-Santana was one of the injured victims of the tragedy at NIU. María's condition will require her to be hospitalized for a long period of time.

Rebecca and María both have a strong connection to U-46. Rebecca is a teacher for U-46 Spanish adult literacy program - Plazas Comunitarias and a member of BPAC. María is a Larkin High School graduate in her junior year at NIU, working towards her major in sociology and criminology. The committee has opened an account with Bank of America for monetary donations. The account number is 002917176342 under Rebecca Santana's name.

Do you know of someone who would like to receive "Acontecimientos"? Or do you have something you want to share? E-mail karlaguzman@u-46.org to sign up or share your events/news.